the country ; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to include special tourism areas identified by Andhra Pradesh for development through joint efforts and giving tourism an industry status ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) Development and promotion of tourist centres/places is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations themselves. However, the Central Department of Tourism provides financial assistance to all the States/UT Administrations every year on the basis of projects prioritised in consultation with them. Accordingly Andhra Pradesh Government has been submitting proposals seeking financial assistance.

(b) No such proposal for inclusion of special tourism areas identified by Andhra Pradesh for development through joint efforts has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has declared "tourism" as an industry with effect from 27-11-1986. The Central Department of Tourism has sanctioned following funds for various projects to the Andhra Pradesh Government during the last three years :

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	No. of Projects Sanctioned	Financial Assistance Provided
1998-99	10	244.08
1999-2000	14	222.22
2000-2001	7	141.00

Tourism projects of Bihar

†2401. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the tourism projects sent by the Government of Bihar for clearance of the Central Government during the last three years; and

(b) the reasons for non-clearance of these projects and by when, they are

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) Financial assistance is provided to the State Governments/UT Administrations for tourism projects prioritised in consultation with them every year. Thirty-three projects of Bihar with Central component of Rs. 718.91 lakhs have been sanctioned during the last three years.

(b) Incomplete/deficient projects which are not sanctioned in any particular year are considered again when these are reprioritized in the subsequent financial year.

Tourist Centres for NE-Region

2402. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the different tourism projects for the North-Eastern Region, State-wise;

(b) the number of those which have been completed, State-wise; and

(c) what is Government's perspective plan for opening different tourist centres in the North-Eastern States for tourism as a resources of this region ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) The Department of Tourism, Government of India in consultation with the State Governments of North-Eastern Region sanctioned 110 projects amounting to Rs. 24.52 crores and released Rs. 7.80 crores during 2000-2001.

(b) State Governments are advised to complete the projects within the stipulated period of 30 months.

(c) The Department of Tourism, Government of India from time to time takes up the issue of opening of different tourist centres in the North-Eastern States with the Ministry of Home Affairs for promotion of Tourism.

Demand of Tourism Industry

2403. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA :.Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister is about to unveil major sops for the beleaguered tourism industry ?

(b) whether the long standing demand of the industry to rationalise taxes